

LABOR QUESTION

Some of the Objects of Mr. Ray's Visit.

Has No Doubt the Territorial Bill Will Pass at the Next Congress.

D. A. Ray came up on the last Kinau for the purpose of viewing the outbreak, says the Hilo Herald. Mr. Ray is the secretary of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee and private secretary to Senator Cullom. He came here with the United States Commission last year, and his visit to the Islands at this time is for the purpose of investigation. Specifically he will look into the matter of labor and his report will be handed to Senator Cullom on his return.

"You will understand," he said to a Herald representative, "that the commission looked pretty generally into everything when here, but when they arrived back in Washington and framed the bill that was presented to Congress, and defeated, they found a pretty strong opposition. This came, in part, from the anti-expansionists and from men who oppose the measure with a main view to disorganizing the Republican side. The bill will be brought up early in the next session of Congress and the commissioners want to make their position as strong as possible. For that reason I was dispatched to the Islands to ascertain the exact number of laborers arriving here since the 12th day of August, and the number departing. Then I will find out the laborers and their nationality engaged on the Islands in agricultural pursuits. This labor question is apt to cut an important part in the debate in the Senate, and both Senator Morgan and Senator Cullom are anxious to be familiar with every detail.

"I cannot say whether the United States labor laws will be extended here, but I feel free to say that the present labor laws of Hawaii will be modified. Since annexation took place Chinese immigration has ceased, but the laws of the Islands permit unlimited immigration of Japanese. This can hardly be considered fair. Of course, the Japanese can come in by their treaty, but it may be necessary to make some arrangements with that government regarding future immigration. If this is to be done I guess the United States is in a position to make the arrangements.

"While I am on the Islands I will confer with the planters and others and get their views. I have had an interesting conversation with H. P. Baldwin, and he has promised to give me his views in writing. This and any other reports I may have I will hand Senator Cullom on my return and the commission will discuss them. Knowing the pulse of the Senate as I do I can say this much: The labor problem will be solved to the satisfaction of the people of the United States and the Islands irrespective of individuals. It is barely possible that Mr. Baldwin's report or any other report may be laid aside unless they are in touch with public sentiment; the opposition may not want to consider such statements owing to the fact that Mr. Baldwin and the planters are directly and personally interested, though I do not for a moment believe that he would make a statement on this subject for personal gain. There have been a number of anti-expansionist people here from the Mainland, some of them sent here for the purpose of investigating conditions and reporting their observations. Senator Pottigrew, a bright, capable man, has visited the Islands and he has a stack of documents as high as your desk. When the bill comes before the Senate he will be primed with information on the subject. Personally I have no doubt the bill will pass; possibly it may be amended slightly, possibly not. I know that among some of the Democrats the matter of franchise has been given considerable thought. There are some who oppose property qualification, others who oppose educational qualification for various reasons, but when the time comes they may let these items pass without serious opposition. Personally, I look upon a limited property qualification with certain favor, because it was in force during the monarchy when the Hawaiians were believed to be satisfied. I admit it is un-American in principle and it may not be in the bill when it passes Congress.

"So far as your election is concerned I am sure it will be set for a time when it will be agreeable for all parties and the time will be fixed in the bill. There are a few matters connected with the war that will first have the attention of Congress early in the session, but action on the Hawaiian bill will not be long deferred. Interest has not waned among the Senators or among the people in the United States and whenever and wherever I am willing to talk on the subject I find many interested listeners.

"The people of Hawaii need not be concerned as to the form of government they are to have. I do not believe a 'colonial' will be considered and I can speak almost authoritatively when I say you will have a territorial form of government, with possibly certain modifications. The commissioners have a high regard for the present government and personally I consider it the best on the face of the earth. With a territorial form you will have municipalities, and suburban towns will be governed differently from what they now are.

"Before I left Washington I met Dr. Pritchett, superintendent of the United States Coast Survey and during a conversation he requested me to secure all possible information regarding the surveys of the bays, etc., made by this government. These will be used as a guide, and when the 'Pathfinder' the

handsome new survey vessel, comes here and the surveys are verified they will become a part of the records of the United States. The matter will be presented to Congress, and I have no doubt it will receive prompt attention. There will be no delay in action upon the Hawaiian bill as soon as certain matters connected with the war are out of the way. I have nothing to say regarding the Governorship," said Mr. Ray, at the close of the interview. "Further than that I do not believe President McKinley has made up his mind who he will appoint. When he does he will act and nothing can change him."

DRAW BIG SALARIES.

For private entertainments some singers and performers draw big sums. Madame Melba has sung thirteen times at private houses during the season at a fee of £300 on each occasion. Madame Eames gets £200 a night, and Calve even more. Paderewski, who played four times at private houses last season, was first engaged by Mr. Astor, whose programmes are of the most magnificent order, and must cost something between £1,500 and £1,800 a night at least, when he engages such "stars" as the great Polish pianist at £1,000, Melba at £300, Piacini and Ancona at £100 each, and others of the merit of a Wolff and a Hollman.

AMERICAN COLONY

To Develop Cuban Sugar Plantations.

Louisiana Planter Says the Annexation of Cuba to the United States is Inevitable.

Last advices from Washington state that President McKinley is so much pleased with the situation in Cuba that he has decided to recall the greater part of the troops still on the island and send them to Manila; this step is considered as the first one towards the final withdrawal of military in Cuba, and no one now doubts that the Cubans will be left entirely free to decide on the form of government to be established on the island, says the Louisiana Planter. Finally, advices from Washington are to the effect that the disturbances are of such a nature that require more rigid police regulations and it is now useless to maintain on the island large military forces, and this with so much more reason that if the American Government is seriously inclined towards the formal annexation of Cuba, an indefinite military occupation is not of absolute necessity to ensure the carrying out of the plan. In case a Cuban republic should be established and recognized by the Government of the United States, the simple shutting out of Cuban sugar from the American market, by a tariff against this island and in favor of the produce from the new territories should be sufficient cause for the people to make a prompt petition for the admission of the island to be annexed to the Union. People generally admit that this is the inevitable end of Cuba.

According to recent advices from New York, another powerful American syndicate, presided over by Mr. Hugh Kelly, has just been organized with a capital of \$12,000,000, to establish in Cuba the first American colony, at Bahia Honda, about seventy-five miles from Havana, and to run thereon several large sugar and tobacco plantations, cattle breeding and fruit and vegetable-growing farms. All the machinery needed for this vast concern will be imported from the United States and the majority of laborers employed on same will proceed from the Southern States, Virginia especially. This deal has been probably organized by the American merchants and manufacturers who are in favor of the annexation of Cuba to the United States, and who recently complained to President McKinley that English capital was being too extensively invested in Cuba, thus making annexation more difficult, and claiming that American money should have been invested in the purchase of the Cuban railroad lines, which have been recently transferred to British syndicates.

GIRLS' BIRTH MONTH.

According to an old astrological prediction: If a girl is born in January, she will be a prudent housewife, given to melancholy, but good-tempered. If in February, a humane and affectionate wife and tender mother. If in March, a frivolous chatterbox, somewhat given to quarrelling. If in April, inconsistent, not intelligent, but likely to be good-looking. If in May, handsome, and likely to be happy. If in June, impetuous, will marry early and be frivolous. If in July, passably handsome, but with a sulky temper. If in August, amiable and practical, likely to marry rich. If in September, discreet, affable and much liked. If in October, pretty and coquettish, and likely to be unhappy. If in November, liberal, kind, of a mild disposition. If in December, well-proportioned, fond of novelty, and extravagant.

MR. BROCK'S SUCCESSOR.

Secretary Coleman expects to hear from W. C. Woodson by the next steamer. The successor of Mr. Brock as assistant secretary will probably be announced.

WHO IS TO PAY?

Bills Incurred for the Chinese Who Appealed.

And Were Afterwards Allowed to Land by a Ruling of the Secretary of the Treasury.

It will be remembered that some six months ago large numbers of Chinese were detained on their arrival here from Hongkong pending examination of their permits and advices from Washington. Some hundreds of these were refused landing and an appeal was taken to the Secretary of the Treasury and successfully prosecuted at Washington by A. G. M. Robertson, who was sent on for that purpose. Many of the Chinese were detained at the quarantine station pending the determination of their appeals for periods extending in some instances to nearly three months. These men were specially guarded during their stay at the quarantine station and fed with the usual rations allowed immigrants in quarantine. But a very serious question has now arisen as to the payment of the bills.

In the first place the steamship companies were liable for all bills incurred during the period of quarantine, and these have been paid without question. When the period of quarantine was over notification was given the authorities that the steamship companies would be no longer liable for any charge for subsistence for the detained immigrants. Mr. McVeigh, in whose care the men were, could not see them starve, and in conjunction with Mr. Reynolds of the Board of Health, ordered sufficient supplies through the usual channels. When the men were finally released the bills which had accumulated were forwarded to Washington, together with the payrolls of the guards and bills for their subsistence. By the last mail replies were received from Washington stating that the United States would be responsible for the pay and keep of the guards, but had nothing to do with the bills for the maintenance of immigrants pending appeals from decisions returning them a landing.

This decision on the part of the Washington magnates has thrown the local authorities into spasms. The question at once arises as to what extent the Board of Health is liable? That the bills were incurred by authorized agents of the board through the usual channels there seems to be no doubt, but their payment is another matter. Then, again, if the liability rests with the board, it has no money to pay the bills, the appropriations for the present biennial period being so nearly exhausted that it is only by the closest economy the board will be able to keep within them.

In the meantime these bills are over three months in arrears and the merchants are the sufferers, as was the case with Miki Maru's passengers. It is understood the amount is in the neighborhood of \$2,100, mostly for rice, beef and fish.

MARCONI'S RIVAL.

The United States Postal Department is investigating a new system of wireless telegraphy, which is said to be an improvement on that invented by Marconi. The following concerning it will be of interest locally in view of the recent proposition to establish inter-island telegraphy. It is thus described by the inventor, G. H. Smith, a young workman of Cardiff:

"I claim to have invented an improvement upon Marconi's arrangement, and also I have obtained provisional protection for a system of combined wireless telegraphic and telephonic communication.

"I have offered to put the channel Islands in telegraphic and telephonic communication with the mainland as a demonstration of the value of my system. I claim to have made a better transmitter than Marconi, a more sensitive receiver, and a method of focusing the electric rays so they can only be picked up by one receiver and cannot be intercepted.

"I dispense entirely with the high wire and guide, and focus the electrical waves so that they have a width of only one inch in passing, thus making it impossible to intercept them. I can telegraph or telephone up to 150 miles."

CHRONIC DIARRHOEA CURED.

Persons troubled with diarrhoea will be interested in the experience of Mr. W. M. Bush, clerk of Hotel Dorrance, Providence, R. I. He says: "For several years I have been almost a constant sufferer from diarrhoea, the frequent attacks completely prostrating me and rendering me unfit for my duties at this hotel. About two years ago a travelling salesman kindly gave me a small bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. Much to my surprise and delight its effects were immediate. Whenever I felt symptoms of the disease I would fortify myself against the attack with a few doses of this valuable remedy. The result has been very satisfactory and almost complete relief from the affliction." For sale by Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., wholesale agents for H. I., and all druggists and dealers.

While the local sugar stock market is likened to the bottomless pit, real estate is in constant demand with many sales and transfers.



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